

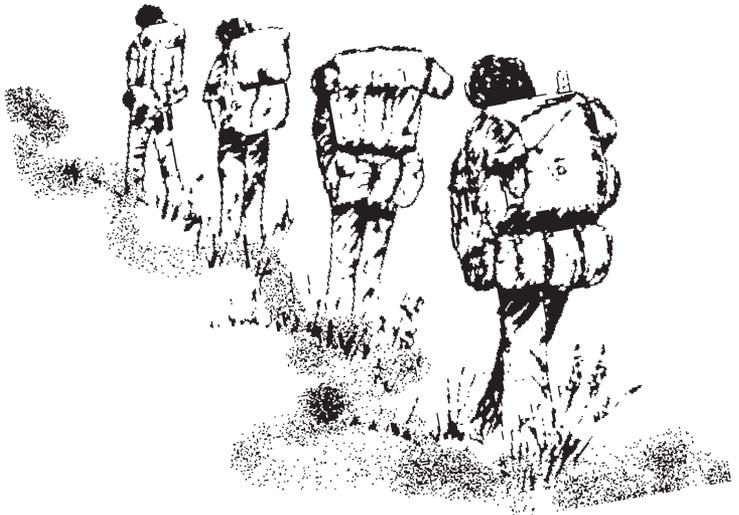
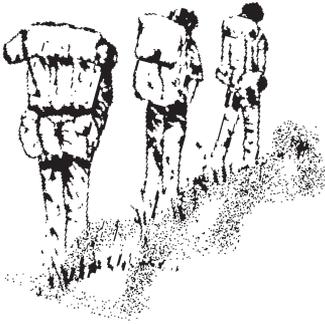
Isle Royale

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Isle Royale National Park



Group Camping



Welcome and Introduction

Isle Royale National Park is an island wilderness located in the northwest portion of Lake Superior. Over 99% of the park is designated Wilderness, and it is a U. S. Biosphere Reserve. The majority of the park's visitors journey to the park to hike, backpack, or travel the waterways of the Island by canoe, kayak, or motorboat.

The Island itself is 45 miles long and 8.5 miles wide at its widest point; the park boundary extends 4.5 miles into Lake Superior. Isle Royale has 36 campgrounds and 165 miles of hiking trails. Less than 20 species of mammals are found on the Island, including gray wolf, moose, red squirrel, beaver, and fox. Over 160 species of birds have been sighted in the park, of which 100 nest on the island. Isle Royale has over 700 species of flowers, trees and ferns, including 32 orchid species.

The group camping office has been assisting groups visiting Isle Royale National Park for several years and has written this brochure to answer some of the most commonly asked questions. You will be assuming a great responsibility when you come to Isle Royale and we want you to have a safe and enjoyable experience. Please feel free to contact us if you have further questions.

Group Camping Summary

- **Advance reservations are required for group camping parties.** A group is a party of 7-10 individuals, including leaders. **No group may be larger than 10 people.** If your party exceeds 10, you must split into two groups, each independent and traveling on completely separate itineraries. Both groups are required to obtain advance permits.
- **Groups are required to follow a set travel itinerary based on campsites that have been reserved.** Groups are limited to camping at the group tent sites – three sided shelters or individual tent sites are not to be used by groups.
- **A non-refundable processing fee of \$25 is charged for each permit issued.**
- **A user fee of \$4.00 per person per day applies to all visitors 12 years of age and older.** Children 11 and under are exempt. The user fee is collected by the transportation services.
- **No one organization can have more than 20 people on the Island at any given time and cannot exceed 80 visitors per year.**
- **Commercial groups must obtain an Incidental Business Permit issued by Isle Royale National Park for the current season.** Any operation providing goods, activities, or services to the general public

within the park and which is undertaken for or results in compensation, monetary gain, benefit, or profit to an individual, organization, or corporation are subject to this requirement. **Non-profit organizations are subject to these same laws.** For an application, write to: Isle Royale National Park, 800 East Lakeshore Drive, Houghton, MI 49931. The application period for Incidental Business Permits is January 1 through May 15.

- **The average hiking distance per day is 6-8 miles for beginning backpackers and 8-10 miles for experienced backpackers.**
- **Please plan on submitting your group camping reservation request as soon as your plans are firm.**

Group Camping Reservations – A Two Step Process

Step 1

Fill out the attached reservation request form and mail a check made payable to DOI-NPS or call the group camping office at (906)482-0984 with a credit card number to cover the permit processing fee. Mail to: Isle Royale National Park, 800 East Lakeshore Drive, Houghton, MI 49931 anytime after January 1. On the first business day of February, we process reservation request forms on hand in random order. Reservation requests received after January are processed in the order they are received. Beginning the first business day in April, we will accept reservation requests by fax, mail, phone, or in person. A permit processing fee must be enclosed for the request to be processed.

Step 2

After your request has been processed and you receive your group camping confirmation letter, you must make your boat or seaplane reservations. See *The Greenstone*, the park newspaper, for current schedules and rates.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Your permit is for group camping only. You are responsible for making your own transportation reservations to Isle Royale National Park.

Changes to Your Camping Permit

If your group needs to make any of the following changes, contact us right away. These changes **must** be made prior to departure.

- Your group decides to cancel the trip
- Your group needs to change trip dates
- Your camping party size changes from 7-10 people to 6 or fewer

- Your camping party size changes from 1-6 to 7 or more
- The method of transportation to the park changes
- Your group wants to change their trip itinerary

These changes will substantially affect your permit and reservation, and need to be dealt with immediately by calling: (906) 482-0984.

If your group makes any of the following changes, have the ranger make these changes on your permit during your island check-in at the park:

- The name or address of the leader changes
- The number in your camping party changes, but stays within the size range of 7-10 or 1-6 that is already indicated on your permit
- Your “traveling mode” changes
- The number of tents change
- The number of boats change

Changes in this list do not substantially alter your reservation, but we do need the corrected information to maintain accurate visitor statistics. At the end of your trip, be sure to turn in your permit with corrections to any visitor center. If you forget, please mail it (or a copy) to the Group Camping Office. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Preparation for a Group Outing

There are several things your group can do to properly prepare for the rigors of Isle Royale. Preparation will help ensure a pleasant trip for all. Here are a few tips on preparing your group:

Shakedown Outing: Conduct a hike and overnight camp out with your group. The outing serves as a way to test equipment such as camp stoves, water filters, tents, sleeping bags and cooking methods; thus avoiding potential problems on the island. The practice hike will also help to break in new hiking boots and backpacks.

Navigation: Familiarize the group to the area you will be exploring. Provide a lesson to your group on the usage of a topographic map and compass.

First Aid: Help the group understand the problems of dehydration, fatigue and hypothermia. Group members should be able to recognize and treat the initial stages of these conditions. The group leader should have a working knowledge of first aid. Remember there are no medical facilities on Isle Royale.

Insects: Be prepared for bugs. Black flies, mosquitoes and other biting insects are present, so remember to bring bug repellent, mosquito netting or other skin barriers.

Bees and wasps are present all over Isle Royale, especially during a hot, dry summer. Be sure to pack a doctor-prescribed epinephrine kit if you or any member of your party is allergic to bee stings.

Footwear: EXPECT BLISTERS! Pack plenty of moleskin in your first aid kit. Even if your feet are tough, the terrain is very rugged and may cause blisters. Wear footwear that is comfortable and in good condition. Boots high enough to give ankle support are recommended. Boots should breathe. Heavy mountaineering types are not needed. If you suspect that someone may have noticeable rubbing, redness, burning or soreness, treat it immediately; don't wait until the next stop. We recommend waterproofing your boots and carrying along running shoes or sandals for evening wear. When air drying footwear make sure it is secured; fox have run off with unattended footwear.

Drinking Water: Water not obtained from the spigots at Rock Harbor or Windigo must be considered contaminated with the eggs of the *Echinococcus granulosus* tapeworm and other harmful organisms. Boil water for two minutes, or filter through an adequate water filter (pore size of 0.4 microns or less). We recommend the purchase and use of water filters; one unit for each group of 4 or 5 will provide an adequate and safe water supply. Collect water with a pan and filter the cleaner water on top. Collapsible plastic jugs are very useful at campsites. Remember, it is unsafe to drink untreated Isle Royale water. Water treated with chemical tablets, such as chlorine, halazone, or iodine WILL NOT guarantee safe drinking water.

Carry plenty of water when hiking. A minimum of 2 quarts per person per day is a good rule of thumb. Drink continuously during the hike to avoid dehydration. Island Mine is the only campsite that does not have a reliable water source.

Tents: Use tents you are familiar with and trust. This is not the time to experiment. The tent serves to protect you from the ever-changing weather effects of Lake Superior. Your tent should be lightweight and have insect-proof netting, sewn in floor, waterproof fly, stability in strong winds, and cross flow ventilation for moisture removal.

Backpacks: A strong backpack with a comfortable fit is a necessity. This is a poor time to break in a new pack since the effects could strain your back and make walking uncomfortable. Whether you use an internal or external frame is a minor consideration as long as it is durable and well designed for backpacking. Test the loading of your pack prior to your visit to be certain it is balanced. Make sure your pack's rain cover is in good condition and readily accessible. Remember to keep your first aid kit, insect repellent, flashlight, snack, and water bottles where they can be accessed without disturbing the rest of the pack.

Stoves: Self-contained fuel stoves are a must since campfires are not allowed at most Isle Royale campgrounds. Stoves reduce the amount of wood that would otherwise be cut for fuel and help to preserve the natural forest communities. Any stove used for a group should have a high BTU output and be stable enough to hold group sized cooking pots. Be sure to bring replacement parts and know how to service them. Don't attempt to cook with Sterno; groups that have ended up borrowing the stove of another backpacker. Determine your fuel needs during a shakedown outing. Bring 25% more fuel than you think you will need. Check with the transportation service in advance to see how fuel is to be transported.

Sleeping Bags: The cool Isle Royale climate makes a warm sleeping bag a necessity. Prepare for sudden drops in temperature. House bags or lightweight summer bags are not suitable. Bags that compress easily and are somewhat water resistant work best. Bring a sleeping pad; cutting of tree boughs for bedding is prohibited. Remember, one third of your time will be spent in a sleeping bag.

Food: There are several manufacturers of trail foods on the market making menu selection almost unlimited. Sample your meals at planning meetings or cook at a shakedown outing so that you order only those items that will be eaten and enjoyed by the group. There will be minimum opportunity for substitutions on the Island. Consider supplementing or developing your menu from items at your local supermarket. There are many things on the shelves that are suitable for backpacking and are usually cheaper than freeze dried trail foods. Try oatmeal, dry soups, potato flakes, pastas, biscuits, breakfast foods, dried fruits, nuts, desserts, and powdered drinks. Keep meals simple; one-pot meals are best for preparation and cleanup. Cooked food that is not eaten must be packed out, so plan your meals carefully. It is illegal to dump food or garbage in the outhouses. Package your meals so they can be distributed easily and allow everyone's load to become a little lighter each day. All trash must be taken off the Island by your group when you leave so refrain from using cans or glass containers. A menu that repeats itself can simplify planning and purchasing of food. Squirrels and foxes have been conditioned by visitors and may raid your equipment and food. Do not feed them, and protect your food and trash by maintaining a clean camp.

Telephone service: Limited to one credit card operated satellite phone in Rock Harbor. Cellular phone service is unreliable on Isle Royale. Emergency communication is available through the rangers on the Island.

Isle Royale National Park Group Camping Reservation Form

Rev. 6/05

Permit # _____
(FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

Type of Group (scouts, camp, friends/family): _____

Name of Organization: _____ Trip Leader: _____

Contact Person: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Number of People: _____ Number of Tents: _____ Number of Boats: _____ (personal or rental)

Date entering the park: ____/____/____ Date leaving the park: ____/____/____

Location of Ferry or Seaplane drop off:

Rock Harbor

Windigo

McCargoe Cove

Other _____

Trail Mileage Between

	Three Mile	Daisy Farm	Moskey Basing	Lake Richie	Chippewa Harbor	Chickenbone Harbor	Chickenbone E	Chickenbone W	McCargoe Cove	Todd Harbor	Hatch
-	4.4	8.3	10.2	14.1	10.5	12.5	12.6	19.5	19.8		
4.4	-	3.9	5.8	9.7	6.1	7.9	8.2	14.9	15.4		
8.3	3.9	-	2.3	6.2	7.3	6.9	8.4	15.1	13.4		
10.2	5.8	2.3	-	4.3	5.0	3.6	6.3	13.0	11.1		
14.1	9.7	6.2	4.3	-	9.3	7.9	10.6	17.3	15.2		
10.5	6.1	7.3	5.0	9.3	-	1.8	2.1	8.7	9.3		
12.5	7.9	6.9	3.6	7.9	1.8	-	2.7	9.3	7.9		
12.6	8.2	8.4	6.3	10.6	2.1	2.7	-	6.7	10.7		
19.5	14.9	15.1	13	17.3	8.7	9.3	6.7	-	4.1		
19.8	15.4	13.4	11.1	15.2	9.3	7.9	10.7	4.1	-		
31.6	27.2	23.7	21.4	25.7	19.6	18.2	20.9	15	11.3		
26.7	22.5	20.5	18.2	22.5	16.4	15.0	17.7	11.8	8.1		
31.6	27.4	25.4	23.1	27.2	21.3	19.9	22.6	16.7	13.0		
36.0	31.8	29.8	27.5	31.6	25.7	24.3	27	21.1	17.4		
46.3	41.9	40.1	37.8	42.0	35.8	34.4	37.1	31.8	27.6		
37.8	33.2	31.0	28.9	33.0	27.1	25.7	28.4	23.0	18.8		
2.7	7.1	11.0	12.9	16.8	13.3	14.8	15.3	22.2	22.3		

Group Campgrounds

Hatchet Lake	Malone Bay	Desor S	Island Mine	Siskiwit Bay	Feldtmann Lake	Washington Creek	Rock Harbor
31.6	26.7	31.6	36.0	46.3	37.8	2.7	Three Mile
27.2	22.5	27.4	31.8	41.9	33.2	7.1	Daisy Farm
23.7	20.5	25.4	29.8	40.1	31.0	11.0	Moskey Basin
21.4	18.2	23.1	27.5	37.8	28.9	12.9	Lake Richie
25.7	22.5	27.2	31.6	42.0	33.0	16.8	Chippewa Harbor
19.6	16.4	21.3	25.7	35.8	27.1	13.3	Chickenbone E
18.2	15.0	19.9	24.3	34.4	25.7	14.8	Chickenbone W
20.9	17.7	22.6	27.0	37.1	28.4	15.3	McCargoe Cove
15.0	11.8	16.7	21.1	31.8	23.0	22.2	Todd Harbor
11.3	8.1	13.0	17.4	27.6	18.8	22.3	Hatchet Lake
-	10.8	15.7	20.1	30.3	21.5	34.3	Malone Bay
10.8	-	5.5	9.9	20.1	11.3	29.4	Desor S
15.7	5.5	-	4.4	14.6	6.6	34.3	Island Mine
20.1	9.9	4.4	-	10.3	11.0	38.7	Siskiwit Bay
30.3	20.1	14.6	10.3	-	8.8	49.0	Feldtmann Lake
21.5	11.3	6.6	11.0	8.8	-	40.1	Washington Creek
34.3	29.4	34.3	38.7	49.0	40.1	-	Rock Harbor

Location of Ferry or Seaplane pick up:

Rock Harbor Windigo Other _____

Transportation to the Island:

Ranger III Isle Royale Queen IV Voyageur II Wenonah Seaplane Private Boat

Transportation off the Island:

Ranger III Isle Royale Queen IV Voyageur II Wenonah Seaplane Private Boat

Primary method of travel while in the park:

Hiking Canoe Kayak Sailboat Powerboat

LIST CAMPSITES REQUESTED FOR EACH NIGHT OF TRIP:

	Date	Name of Campground	Date	Name of Campground
1.	_____	_____	8.	_____
2.	_____	_____	9.	_____
3.	_____	_____	10.	_____
4.	_____	_____	11.	_____
5.	_____	_____	12.	_____
6.	_____	_____	13.	_____
7.	_____	_____	14.	_____

Method of Payment: Check Credit Card Type of Card: Visa MasterCard Discover

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. _____ Cardholder's Signature _____

Emergencies: Each group should establish one contact person at home. The contact person should have all the necessary information about each group member and the group's itinerary. This information should include: group leader's name, name of each group member, ferry service taken, departure and arrival dates, permit number and camping itinerary. In case of an emergency medical evacuation, visitors may be flown to Thunder Bay, Canada. Therefore, be sure each member of your group is carrying identification, money and health care provider information.

Emergency contact numbers:

During business hours, Mon. - Sat.: (906) 482-0984

After hours contact Houghton City Police: (906) 482-2121

Preparing Yourself (The Leader)

Know the answers to these questions:

- How would I get word to a ranger station if an injury or illness made it impossible for a group member to hike?
- How would I care for an injured/ill group member?
- What would I do with the remainder of my group? (Never leave an injured person alone.)
- How would I get an injured/ill group member off the Island?
- Do I have a card for each member of my group that lists name, address, emergency phone number, and medical information such as blood type, allergies, and medications used? (This is extremely important to medical personnel in emergencies.)
- Do I have sufficient resources to stay a few days beyond what I planned?
- Is my first aid certification current?
- Am I carrying a first aid kit and have I taught the group how to use it?

Preparation is the key to a successful Isle Royale visit. Being prepared for whatever may occur will help you to be an effective leader. Keep in mind that the park is a natural wilderness that should be preserved for future generations of hikers and campers.

The first time visitor must consider the Island's isolation. It will be very difficult to leave if conditions are not what you expected. Be prepared for colder temperatures and insects. Few facilities exist on the Island. There are no medical facilities and due to its isolation it is extremely difficult to contact a ranger if an emergency occurs. Supplies are only available in limited quantities at small concession stores in Rock Harbor and Windigo. Plan ahead and strive for self sufficiency.

Your Trip

For visitors needing lodging either before or after the trip, the following contacts are listed to assist in your preparation:

Michigan's Keweenaw Convention & Visitors Bureau

56638 Calumet Avenue, Calumet, MI 49913

Email: info@keweenaw.info

Phone: (906)337-4579

Website Address: <http://www.keweenaw.info>

Minnesota's Grand Marais Visitor Information Center

Box 805, Grand Marais, MN 55604

Email: director@grandmarais.com

Phone: (218) 387-2524 or (888) 922-5000

Website Address: <http://www.grandmarais.com>

For airline arrangements to Michigan departure points, the nearest airport is the **Houghton County Memorial Airport**, Hancock, MI (CMX). Airline services provided by Mesaba-Northwest AirlinK - (906) 482-3660. Bus service provided by Greyhound - (906) 483-2370.

For airline arrangements to Grand Portage, the nearest airport is the **Duluth International Airport**, Duluth, MN (DLH). Bus service from Duluth to Grand Portage provided by Happy Times Tours (807) 473-5955 or (800)473-5955.



While on the Island, Practice Leave No Trace Principles

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics is a national non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and inspiring responsible outdoor recreation through education, research and partnerships. Leave No Trace builds awareness, appreciation and respect for our wildlands. For more information, visit <http://www.lnt.org>.

- 1. Plan ahead and prepare.** This will help make your outing safer and more fun. Consider what to bring and what to leave behind. Repackage food into plastic bags to reduce litter. Plan practical, achievable itineraries.
- 2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.** Use existing trails and avoid shortcutting switchbacks. You must camp in designated group campsites.
- 3. Dispose of waste properly.** Never bury your trash. Garbage and leftover food cannot be placed in outhouses. If you pack it in, pack it out! Wash yourself and dishes at least 200 feet (75 steps) away from lakes, streams, trails, gullies or campsites.
- 4. Leave what you find.** People come to Isle Royale to enjoy its natural state. Allow others the same sense of discovery by leaving plants, rocks, historic, cultural, and archaeological artifacts as you find them.
- 5. Minimize campfire impacts.** Campfires are only permitted at a small number of campgrounds. A small, lightweight stove is required for cooking.
- 6. Respect wildlife.** Avoid encounters with wildlife. Use binoculars or telephoto lenses to observe them from a safe distance. If the animal stops what it is doing, you are too close.
- 7. Be considerate of other visitors.** Observe quiet hours and avoid noisy games to allow all visitors to enjoy the peace of the wilderness. Hike quietly. Lessen your impact on others by wearing colors that blend in with the wilderness.



Helping the Group During the Trip

- Hike for 30 minutes then rest for five and drink water regardless of weather or terrain. Fatigue and dehydration are responsible for most accidents.
- Place the slowest hikers in the front of the line and do not allow the group to become strung along over a long distance.
- Allow ample time to set up and break camp. Time spent relaxing in camp is as important as distance covered. Hike a reasonable distance each day (6-10 miles) and avoid “forced marches.”
- Dress in layers so that you can put on or take off clothing as needed. Try to limit each group member to one change of clothes. This will make packs lighter.
- Tape flashlight switches off and screw fuel bottles tight. Do not store fuel bottles next to food.
- Never let a group member use or light a stove inside a tent.
- Never store food inside your tent.
- Carry energy food as you hike: candy, nuts, granola, cookies, trail mix, and fruit. Use similar foods for no-cook lunches.
- If a group member becomes injured, keep their personal belongings with them since they may be separated from the group if further treatment elsewhere is necessary.
- Expect rain. Carry breathable raingear, a pack cover and a rain fly for your tent. Be sure to pack clothing, sleeping bag and other gear in plastic bags.
- Keep pack weights to a quarter or less of the body weight of the person carrying the pack.
- If there are more than ten of you, you will be broken into smaller groups and are required to go on separate routes. Plan to use your stoves, water filters, and first aid kits accordingly. Have sufficient equipment to supply both groups.
- Unruly groups affect the experience of other campers and may be dealt with by park staff.
- What your group carries into the park must also be carried out, so bring along plastic bags for separating your trash from the other things in your pack. Small zip-lock bags are good for leftover food and help to keep your larger trash bags odor free.
- Be honest with yourself and your group; if you or another person are having problems, tell someone.

Special Tips

- The peak season on Isle Royale is mid-July to mid-August. Try to plan your visit earlier or later in the season.
- Merely “hiking the Island” is unfair to you and your group. Take time to learn about its plants, animals, rocks, and history. Read the publications available from the Isle Royale Natural History Association (www.irnha.org); they can help you prepare for your trip, making your visit more pleasant, safe, and educational.
- Enjoy the interpretive programs at Windigo, Daisy Farm, Rock Harbor, and aboard *Ranger III*.
- If your group lacks the experience for an Isle Royale trek, consider these similar nearby areas:

Sylvania Tract: U.S. Forest Service, Ironwood, MI 49938

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park: 412 S. Boundary Rd., Ontonagon, MI 49953

North Country Trail: U.S. Forest Service, Ironwood, MI 49938

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore: Box 40, Munising, MI 49862

Regulations

The regulations of Isle Royale National Park are designed to protect park resources and visitor experiences. Regulations place strong emphasis on preserving the island’s wilderness character. Visitors are responsible for adhering to all park regulations.

Daily User Fee: A fee of \$4.00 per person (12 years and older), per day will be assessed to your party. Eighty percent of the revenue collected stays at Isle Royale National Park and will be earmarked for trail and dock maintenance; the remaining 20% is used on projects throughout the National Park Service.

Quiet hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. EDT. This ensures that all campers have a restful experience while enjoying the natural sounds of the wilderness.

Prohibited items: Items that cause damage to an area or create excess noise are prohibited. This includes: fireworks, kites, radios (tuned to commercial stations), video games, frisbees, baseballs, footballs, and other sporting equipment. Wheeled canoe portaging devices are also prohibited.

Fishing licenses: Licenses are not required for inland lakes and streams on the Island; however, Michigan size, season and possession limits still apply.

Only artificial lures and flies may be used on inland lakes and streams. Fish in possession must be measurable and identifiable (skin and heads on). Michigan State fishing licenses are required for Lake Superior and the connecting bays. Daily licenses are available at Rock Harbor and Windigo. Licenses may be acquired online at www.michigan.gov/dnr. Refer to the Michigan Fishing Guide and the park newspaper for a complete set of rules regarding fishing.

Checklist

Before you depart, did your group remember to:

- Make reservations with the ferry or seaplane service to the Island.
- Establish an emergency contact person at home with all necessary information.
- Check all essential equipment including camp stove, water filter, tents, backpacks, first aid kits and sleeping bags.
- Pack an extra camp stove and replacement water filter in case of a breakdown.
- Pack a first aid kit and a doctor-prescribed epinephrine kit for any group member who is allergic to bee stings; along with emergency medical and contact cards for each group member.
- Pack bug repellent and protective clothing.
- Purchase a Michigan fishing license if you plan to fish on Lake Superior or connecting waters.

If you have any questions contact:

Group Camping Office
Isle Royale National Park
800 East Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, MI 49931
Phone: (906) 482-0984
Fax: (906) 482-8753
Email: ISRO_GroupReserve@nps.gov